THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2011

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JOINT STATEMENT FROM SENATE PRESIDENT HARIDOPOLOS AND HOUSE SPEAKER CANNON ON BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

~ Budget Conference to Begin on Wednesday ~

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) and Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) today announced an agreement on allocations for the 2011-2012 state budget.

"Resolving a budget shortfall of nearly \$4 billion is a tall order, but I'm pleased the House and Senate worked through this difficult process," said Speaker Cannon. "Our allocations ensure that we preserve our bond ratings by maintaining adequate reserves. Most importantly, we do not take money out of the struggling Florida economy by increasing taxes or fees."

"While many states and the federal government are floundering under crushing deficit spending, we kept our promise that we would not raise taxes or fees during these difficult economic times," President Haridopolos added. "For months, I've heard over and over again that we would never be able to get this done. Working as a team, the House and Senate, reached these budget allocations on behalf of all Floridians."

President Haridopolos and Speaker Cannon plan to announce budget conferees later today. Budget conference will begin on Wednesday April 27, 2011.

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